

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

February 15, 2023

Dear Chair Pryor and House Education Policy Committee Members,

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) supports HF 1224. This bill limits the situations in which the Tier 2 to Tier 3 pathway can be used. There are multiple ways a teacher can earn a Tier 3 license, including higher education, alternative preparation, and licensure via portfolio.

All other pathways to licensure require teachers to show that they have mastered content standards and general pedagogy standards. They also need to meet statutory requirements such as teaching reading, teaching multilingual learners, and supporting students with dyslexia. Aren't these standards and requirements important for all teachers? Why have a pathway that allows some teachers to not have this preparation? Why have standards and laws at all if we aren't required to follow them?

PELSB's data shows one third of teachers who hold a Tier 2 have completed teacher preparation. About 30% of these teachers are teachers of color. The only barrier to them obtaining a Tier 3 license is passing the licensure exams. They have demonstrated evidence of meeting standards through coursework and teaching.

We are especially concerned regarding Special Education teachers moving to a Tier 3 without training given federal laws around credentialing. We recognize the staffing challenges districts face. We are eager to work with PELSB to create accessible pathways for these teachers. Staffing challenges will not get better anytime soon without action.

We believe that allowing someone to receive a Tier 3 license without meeting standards is not good for Minnesota's children, devalues the teaching profession, and undermines the authority and credibility of our licensure rules.

We urge you to support HF 1224.

Sincerely,
Laura Mogelson
MACTE Legislative Liaison